

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 11665

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO, SP, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH SOCIALIST COMMENTS ON SPAIN AND
PORTUGAL

REF: PARIS 10731

1. PS INTERNATIONAL STAFF MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS HAS CONFIRMED OUR IMPRESSION (REFTEL) THAT PS IS CONVINCED SUPPORTER OF RECENTLY FORMED "COORDINACION DEMOCRATICA" IN SPAIN. OUR SOURCE ARGUED FIRST, THAT LIBERALIZATION WILL NOT SUCCEED IN SPAIN AS LONG AS PCE IS PROHIBITED; AND SECONDLY, THAT IN FREE ELECTION PS BELIEVES PSOE WOULD IN ANY CASE WIN BULK OF LEFT-WING VOTES IN SPAIN, MAKING IT THE PREDOMINANT LEFT-WING FORCE AND PUTTING IT IN POSITION TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE OVER SPANISH COMMUNISTS. PS RECOGNIZES NEITHER THESE ASSUMPTIONS IS UNIVERSALLY SHARED. EVEN SO, IT IS SUFFICIENTLY CONVINCED THEIR ACCURACY TO WELCOME "WARMLY" PSOE DECISION TO JOIN IN TEMPORARY AND LOOSE EFFORT REPRESENTED BY "COORDINACION DEMOCRATICA." AS FOR POSSIBILITY THAT "COORDINACION DEMOCRATICA" COULD FURTHER POLARIZE SPANISH POLITICS, OUR SOURCE SAID SIMPLY THAT THIS WAS PROBLEM WHICH OTHERS SHOULD REFLECT ON IF
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THEY PERSIST IN EXCLUDING PCE FROM SPANISH POLITICS.

COMMENT: WHILE NO REFERENCE WAS MADE TO MITTERRAND'S

ALLEGED ROLE IN PERSUADING FELIPE GONZALEZ TO JOIN
"COORDINACION DEMOCRATICA," ABOVE CONVERSATION TENDS TO
SUPPORT THESIS THAT PS PROBABLY HAD ROLE.

2. REGARDING UPCOMING PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS, OUR PS CON-
TACT WAS RATHER PESSIMISTIC. PS ESTIMATED SOCIALISTS
WOULD "AT BEST" GET ABOUT 30 PERCENT AND PPD ABOUT 25
PERCENT. THE CDS WERE LIKELY TO BE THE BIG GAINERS WITH
POSSIBLY MORE THAN 20 PERCENT OF VOTE. WHILE SOARES WILL
NOT ENTER INTO ANY COALITION WITH THE PPD OUR SOURCE
THOUGHT HE HAD RECENTLY SOFTENED SOMEWHAT AND "MIGHT"
ENTER AN ALLIANCE OF THE CENTER. MOST LIKELY HOWEVER
SOCIALISTS WOULD REMAIN IN OPPOSITION.
RUSH

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